

Indiana Trial Courts

Caseload Reports and Case Type Descriptions

On a quarterly basis, the trial courts of the state provide to the Division of State Court Administration caseload information by filing a standard form entitled "Quarterly Case Status Report." This report contains information on the cases filed, disposed, and pending at the beginning and ending of the reporting period. This information is categorized by type of case based on a classification, which corresponds to a statewide case numbering system found in Administrative Rule 8. The reports also show the method of disposition for categories established by the Division of State Court Administration. Currently, criminal cases are divided into ten categories, juvenile cases into six categories, civil cases into ten categories, and probate/adoption cases into five categories. Quarterly Case Status Reports also reflect the shifting of cases and blocks of time from court to court, the number of cases referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the number of cases in which pauper counsel was appointed and other case related information. Case type designations and categories are as follows:

Criminal Case Types

If a defendant is charged with several offenses, the case is counted only one time under the most serious charge. Mitigating and aggravating factors may move a particular crime into a different classification. Those same factors may also increase or decrease the general sentencing provided by statute. However, for administrative purposes a case continues to be counted through the statistical reports under its initial case designation.

1. **MR – Murder**: All murder cases filed on or after 1/1/2002 are filed under this category.
2. **CF - Criminal Felony**: This category includes all cases filed prior to 1/1/2002 as Murder, Class A, B, and C felonies. Examples of crimes in this category include kidnapping (Class A), arson involving bodily injury (Class A), armed robbery (Class B), aggravated battery (Class B), robbery (Class C), and reckless homicide (Class C).
3. **FA – Class A Felony**: All A felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include kidnapping, and arson involving bodily injury.
4. **FB – Class B Felony**: All B felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include aggravated battery and armed robbery.
5. **FC – Class C Felony**: All C felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include robbery and reckless homicide.
6. **DF - Class D Felony**: All D felonies filed before 1/1/2002. In 1995 Courts began counting and reporting Class D felonies separately. Examples of crimes in this category include theft, computer tampering, and fraud.

7. **FD – Class D Felony**: All D felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include theft, computer tampering, and fraud.
8. **CM - Criminal Misdemeanor**: This category includes all criminal cases which are filed as misdemeanors. Examples of cases in this category are criminal trespass and battery.
9. **PC - Post-Conviction Petition**: This category includes all petitions for post-conviction relief filed under Post Conviction Rule 1.
10. **MC - Miscellaneous Criminal**: This category includes all criminal matters which are not easily classified in one of the preceding categories.
11. **IF - Infractions**: Despite technically being non-criminal in nature, for the purposes of this report infractions are reported in the criminal category. Infractions are most typically traffic related offenses.
12. **OV/OE - Ordinance Violations**: These cases involve violations of local ordinances.

Juvenile Case Types

13. **JC - Juvenile CHINS**: This category includes cases where a petition is filed to determine if a child is in need of services.
14. **JD - Juvenile Delinquency**: Cases in which a child is alleged to be a delinquent are filed in this category.
15. **JS - Juvenile Status**: Cases in which a child is charged with committing an offense which would not be a crime if committed by an adult are filed in this category. Some examples include curfew violations and underage alcohol purchase or consumption.
16. **JP - Juvenile Paternity**: This category reflects paternity actions filed by any of the parties specified by statute, including the prosecutor. Indiana Code 31-14-4-1 specifies who may file paternity actions.
17. **JT - Termination of Parental Rights**: This category reflects all proceedings for termination of parental rights.
18. **JM - Juvenile Miscellaneous**: This category is intended to include those juvenile matters which are not specifically listed in the previous categories. An example in this area would be the approval by the court of an informal adjustment.

Civil Case Types

19. **CP - Civil Plenary**: All Civil Plenary cases filed before 1/1/2002. Basic civil cases not otherwise specifically included as separate categories are filed with this designation. Generally, this category covers cases founded in contract, actions dealing with real and personal property, as well as actions seeking equitable or injunctive relief.
20. **PL - Civil Plenary**: All Civil Plenary cases filed on or after 1/1/2002. Basic civil cases not otherwise specifically included as separate categories are filed with this designation. Generally, this category covers cases founded in contract, actions dealing with real and personal property, as well as actions seeking equitable or injunctive relief.
21. **MF - Mortgage Foreclosure**: All Mortgage Foreclosure cases filed on or after 1/1/2002 are reported under the MF category.
22. **CC - Civil Collections**: All Civil Collections filed on or after 1/1/2002, are reported under the CC category, and may include the following: proceedings supplemental as an independent action; suits on notes and accounts; general collection suits; landlord and tenant suits for collection; ejectment; and tax warrants.
23. **CT - Civil Tort**: Cases founded in tort and filed on the regular civil docket of the court are included in this category. Small claims, which also could be founded in tort, are included in a separate category.
24. **SC - Small Claims**: This category reflects the civil small claims filed on the small claims docket of circuit, superior, or county courts, as well as civil cases filed in Marion Small Claims Court.
25. **DR - Domestic Relations**: Actions involving petitions for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and petitions to establish child support are filed in this category.
26. **RS - Reciprocal Support**: Actions for reciprocal enforcement of child support (UIFSA) and petitions for modification of support or custody and/or support under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act are counted in this category.
27. **MH - Mental Health**: Proceedings which involve mental health commitments which may include temporary commitments, an extension of temporary commitment, regular commitment, or termination of a commitment, are filed under this category.
28. **AD - Adoption**: Petitions for adoption are filed under this category. All petitions seeking release of adoption records under Indiana Code 31-19-24-1 are also filed in this category.

29. **AH - Adoption History**: All petitions seeking release of adoption records under Indiana Code 31-19-24-1 filed prior to 1/1/2002 were filed in this category.
30. **ES - Estates**: This category includes both supervised and unsupervised probate of estates. Claims against the estate that are transferred for trial are listed as “civil” matters.
31. **GU - Guardianship**: Petitions for appointment of guardians are filed under this category.
32. **TR - Trusts**: This category reflects trust matters before the court.
33. **PO - Protective Order**: New petitions for protective orders which are not part of an ongoing process (such as a marriage dissolution) are filed in this category.
34. **MI - Civil Miscellaneous**: Routine civil matters which are not easily categorized in other areas, or which are not part of any other pending litigation, may be included in this category. Examples of cases in this category are petitions for name change, appointment of appraisers, and marriage waivers.

The Quarterly Case Status Reports also include summary information about cases. Cases may come to a court through the following means:

1. **New Filings**: A case is counted as a new filing when the appropriate documents have been filed with the Clerk’s office, the appropriate filing fee (if applicable) is paid, and the clerk assigns the case as sequential number.
2. **Venued In**: A case is counted as venued into a court if that case is moved to the reporting court from another county. Parties may request a change of venue as permitted by statute, or courts may venue cases as part of an approved District Caseload Allocation Plan. Venued cases receive a new cause number in the receiving court and are recorded as “venued out” by the court in which the case originated.
3. **Transferred In**: A case is counted as transferred into a court if that case is moved to the reporting court from another court in the same county. Frequently, cases are transferred between courts in the same county as part of a caseload allocation plan or for other internal court management purposes. Transferred cases receive a new cause number in the receiving court and are counted as “transferred out” by the court in which the case originated in.

Cases may be disposed by courts in the following means:

1. **Jury Trial**: This category reflects cases that have been decided by a jury or have gone to the jury. This type of disposition is limited to cases where the jury is seated and sworn.

2. **Bench Trial**: Cases that are disposed of by the court after a trial in which a witness is sworn. Until 1999, cases in which a trial did not take place were also counted as disposed by bench trial. Thereafter, such cases have been reflected under “bench disposition.”
3. **Bench Disposition**: Cases that are disposed by final judicial determination of an issue, but where no witnesses are sworn and no evidence is introduced should be counted in this category. Dispositions which fall in this category included decisions on motions for summary judgment, hearings on other dispositive motions, cases which may be settled but in which the parties tender to the court and the court approves an agreed judgment which can then be enforced through proceedings supplemental to execution. Approval of informal adjustments in juvenile matters and issuance of search warrants unrelated to any pending case also fall into this category. This category was new and voluntary during 1999. It became mandatory beginning January 1, 2001.
3. **Dismissed**: Cases which are dismissed either by the court on its own motion (Trial Rule 41(E)), upon the motion of a party, or upon an agreed entry as a result of settlement between the parties.
5. **Default**: This category is applicable only in civil cases where a default judgment is entered by the court.
6. **Guilty Plea/Admission**: Cases in which the defendant pleads guilty to an offense or admits to the commission of an infraction or ordinance violation are counted under this category. Infraction and ordinance violation cases are only reflected in this disposition category if the case actually comes before the court for decision.
7. **Violations Bureau**: This disposition category reflects infractions and ordinance violations that have been filed in the court but are handled through a violations bureau. Cases counted here include ones where a defendant makes an admission, pleads guilty, or pays a fine through the bureau, through the clerk, or through the mail.
8. **Closed**: Routine closing of an estate or adoption proceeding, as well as the routine termination of a trust or guardianship would be counted in this disposition type.
9. **FTA/FTP**: This category includes ordinance or infraction cases in which the defendant fails to appear or fails to pay. Once counted in this category, the case is not recounted even if the defendant later appears, pays, or proceeds to a full trial.
10. **Other**: Any case disposition that is not otherwise accounted for in the preceding categories may be included here. One example of a case resolved in this category would be the death of the defendant.

11. **Venued Out**: While this category is not a true disposition and is not counted toward total case dispositions, cases that have been filed in a court but are moved to another county for any reason should be reflected here.
12. **Transferred Out**: As with the Venued Out category, this category is not a true disposition and is not counted in the total case dispositions. Included in this category are cases which are transferred from one court to another within the same county or from one court docket to another (such as a move from small claims docket to the civil plenary docket). In the event a motion for change of venue from the judge results in a transfer of the case to another court in the same county, the case is also counted in this category.